IN THE CLAIMS:

The status and content of each claim follows.

1-8.   (cancelled)

9.   (currently amended)   A method for accessing a message in a conditional access system, the method comprising:

receiving ~~authorization information~~ a rights message with a ~~first conditional access receiver~~ set top box, wherein said rights message individually conveys access rights to said set top box for at least one functional unit in said set top box;

~~generating~~ receiving ~~a first~~ an authorization message with said set top box, wherein said authorization message is transmitted to a plurality of separate set top boxes and specifies required rights for use of a separately received ~~content~~ software object by [[a]] said ~~plurality of~~ set top ~~receivers~~ box;

~~performing a first determination~~ determining whether said ~~to test if a first~~ set top ~~receiver~~ box is authorized to access the separately received ~~content~~ software object by comparing said access rights conveyed to said set top box in said rights message with said required rights specified by said first authorization message; and

~~receiving authorization information with a second conditional access receiver;~~

~~performing a second determination to test if a second set top receiver is authorized to access the separately received content object;~~

blocking access to the separately received ~~content~~ software object by the ~~first~~ set top ~~receiver~~ box as a function of determining ~~if~~ whether the ~~first~~ set top ~~receiver~~ box is authorized to access the separately received software object~~; and~~

~~blocking access to the separately received content object by the second set top receiver~~
~~as a function of determining if the second set top receiver is authorized~~.

10.   (currently amended)   The method for accessing a message in a conditional access system as recited in claim 9, wherein blocking access to the separately received <u>software</u> ~~content~~ object comprises ignoring a portion of a datastream associated with the separately received <u>software</u> ~~content~~ object.

11.   (cancelled)

12.   (currently amended)   The method for accessing a message in a conditional access system as recited in claim 9, wherein the separately received <u>software</u> ~~content~~ object comprises a software program.

13-26. (cancelled)

27.   (currently amended)   The method for accessing a message in a conditional access system as recited in claim 9, wherein the separately received <u>software</u> ~~content~~ object comprises video content.

28.   (currently amended)   The method for accessing a message in a conditional access system as recited in claim 9, wherein the separately received <u>software</u> ~~content~~ object comprises audio content.

29.   (currently amended)   The method for accessing a message in a conditional access systems as recited in claim 9, wherein the separately received <u>software</u> ~~content~~ object comprises firmware.